


Special Report


"Dinner with Colleague(s)" An Investigative Series on the use of the CoB's Budget

This Special Report takes a look at a recent stack of paperwork obtained by usmpride.com investigators involving several meals that CoB Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand has had with various "colleagues." The parties involved, and the purpose of these meals, is not spelled out by Niroomand on any of his reimbursement forms. It seems as though Niroomand's thinking is that simply using the word "colleague(s)" makes any meal expenditure legitimate.

Our first example is inserted below:

 THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI BUSINESS RELATED EXPENSE FORM	Name	Farhang Niroomand	SS#	[REDACTED]
	Phone #	601.266.5028	Dept Box #	5021
	E-Mail	farhang.niroomand@usm.edu		
	Dept Name	CoB - Dean's Office		
<small>This form must be completed when business entertainment expense has been incurred during travel for the University. Attach all original itemized receipts to this form, then attach this form to the TRAVEL VOUCHER.</small>				
Date of Activity	Location of Activity	Business Purpose of Activity	Name of Individuals Involved	Amount
11/19/05	Miami, FL	Business dinner with colleagues	Dr. Samii, Mr & Mrs Echeveria	\$ 104.79

The screen above indicates that Niroomand had a "business dinner" with Dr. Samii and Mr. and Mrs. Echeveria. That's good to know. Now, what does it mean? Niroomand doesn't say. What we do know is that Niroomand was in Miami in November of 2005 for the Association for Global Business (see below), an organization that has been the subject of numerous reports at usmpride.com over the past few weeks.

 THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYEE TRAVEL VOUCHER	Date	21-Nov-05
	Name	Farhang Niroomand
	Phone #	601.266.5028
	E-Mail	farhang.niroomand@usm.edu
	Dept Name	CoB - Dean's Office
Title of Meeting:	Permission to Travel Filed (if yes, UNIVERSITY CLASSIFIED)	
Association for Global Business	Submitter	Melia Hartsfield
Location and Purpose of trip:	Miami, FL Presenting a paper	Accompanied By:

An indication of who "Dr. Samii" is can be found in the Special Report entitled "How much does JCRGB Sponsorship Cost the CoB?" "Dr. Samii" is pictured in that report. An insert containing that picture is presented below:




From Left to Right:

Professor **Farhang Niroomand** Dean, University of Southern Mississippi; **Professor Roger Doost**, Clemson University; Professor **Massood Samii**, Southern New Hampshire University (*Riding the donkey all the way to Boston!*); Professor **Nader Asgary**, SUNY College at Geneseo; Professor **Hossein Vaaramini**, Elizabethtown College.


Missing in Action!!!! ----President **Faramarz Damanpour** (Maybe attending the APEC summit in Santiago)

The “Dr. Samii” in Niroomand’s reimbursement report is Massood Samii of Southern New Hampshire University. The photo identifies Samii, an “AGB Amigo” as the one in the middle who is “*Riding the donkey all the way to Boston!*” Perhaps Mr. and Mrs. Echeveria are also affiliated with the AGB Amigos.


The next example of Niroomand’s meals with colleagues is a business lunch in Jackson with Ms. Travis and Mr. Jim Harper (see below).

 <p>THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI BUSINESS RELATED EXPENSE FORM</p>	Name	Farhang Niroomand	SSN	[REDACTED]
	Phone #	601.266.5028	Dept Box #	5021
	E-Mail	farhang.niroomand@usm.edu		
	Dept Name	CoB - Dean's Office		
	<p>This form must be completed when business entertainment expense has been incurred during travel for the University. Attach all original itemized receipts to this form, then attach this form to the TRAVEL VOUCHER.</p>			
Date of Activity	Location of Activity	Business Purpose of Activity	Names of Individuals Involved	Amount
12/08/05	Amerigo - Jackson, MS	Business Lunch	Ms. Travis and Mr. Jim Harper	\$ 85.62
				\$ -

The screen below indicates this lunch may have had something to do with Niroomand's December of 2005 trip to the Mississippi World Trade Center in Jackson.

 <p style="text-align: center;">THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYEE TRAVEL VOUCHER</p>	Name	Farhang Niroomand	
	Phone #	601.266.5028	Dept B
	E-Mail	farhang.niroomand@usm.edu	
	Dept Name	CoB - Dean's Office	
Title of Meeting:	Permission to Travel Filed (if yes, attach UNIVERSITY CLASSIFICATION)		
Trip to MS World Trade Center	Submitter	Melia Hartsfield	601.266.
Location and Purpose of trip:	Jackson, MS	Accompanied By:	

Niroomand reports a number of business meals in the following reimbursement form:

 <p style="text-align: center;">THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI BUSINESS RELATED EXPENSE FORM</p>	Name	Farhang Niroomand	SS#	[REDACTED]
	Phone #	266-5028	Dept Box #	5021
	E-Mail	farhang.niroomand@usm.edu		
	Dept Name	CoB - Dean's Office		
This form must be completed when business entertainment expense has been incurred during travel for the University. Attach all original itemized receipts to this form, then attach this form to the TRAVEL VOUCHER.				
Date of Activity	Location of Activity	Business Purpose of Activity	Names of Individuals Involved	Amount
07/25/05	Chili's - Gulfport, MS	Business lunch with colleagues	Niroomand	\$ 33.37
08/04/05	Amerigo - Ridgeland, MS	Business lunch with colleagues	Dr. Green - World Trade Center	\$ 15.50
08/04/05	Amerigo - Ridgeland, MS	Business lunch with colleagues	Niroomand, Ms. Stephens, Ms. Miller - World Trade Center	\$ 91.00
08/17/05	McElroy's - Biloxi, MS	Business lunch with faculty member	Niroomand	\$ 21.60

These seem to all be Mississippi-based meals. On 4 August 2005, Niroomand had a business lunch with Dr. Green at the World Trade Center in Jackson (\$15.50). Niroomand had another business lunch with Ms. Stephens and Ms. Miller at the World Trade Center on the same day (\$91.00). That's two lunches on the same day, with three different people, totaling \$106.50.

Also in the screen above, the CoB Associate Dean lists a business lunch on 25 July 2005 in Gulfport with "colleagues," yet he fails to list any names other than his own. The total was \$33.37. Again on 17 August 2005 Niroomand has a meal alone (apparently), yet claims to have eaten with a "faculty member." The total on this one was \$21.60. Niroomand uses the term "colleagues" on three of four lines in the form above. That should be all financial affairs officers at USM would need, right?

On 23 August 2005 Niroomand had a "dinner meeting" with Barbara Travis of the World Trade Center. The two dined at the Silver Star Resort and Casino (\$55.37), as the screen below indicates:



BUSINESS RELATED EXPENSE FORM

E-Mail	farhang.niroomand@usm.edu
Dept Name	CoB Dean's Office

This form must be completed when business entertainment expense has been incurred during travel for the University. Attach all original itemized receipts to this form, then attach this form to the TRAVEL VOUCHER.

Date of Activity	Location of Activity	Business Purpose of Activity	Names of Individuals Involved	Amount
08/23/05	SilverStar Resort & Casino	Dinner meeting	Niroomand and Barbara Travis of World Trade Center	\$ 55.37

Even on his 30 September 2005 “academic visit” to Irvine, California, a trip reported on earlier by usmpride.com, Niroomand found some people to eat dinner with him (if he’s paying, why not?). The screens below show that Niroomand had a “Business dinner with colleague” in Irvine:

	THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI BUSINESS RELATED EXPENSE FORM		Date	7-Oct-05
			Name	Farhang Niroomand
			Phone #	(601) 266-4659
			E-Mail	farhang.niroomand@usm.edu
			Dept Name	College of Business
This form must be completed when business entertainment expense has been incurred during travel for the University. Attach all original itemized receipts to this form, then attach this form to the TRAVEL VOUCHER.				
Date of Activity	Location of Activity	Business Purpose of Activity	Names of Individuals Involved	
09/30/05	Irvine, CA conference	Business dinner with colleague	Dr. Smith and Mr. Guider	
Date of Activity	Location of Activity	Business Purpose of Activity	Names of Individuals Involved	Amount
09/30/05	Irvine, CA conference	Business dinner with colleague	Dr. Smith and Mr. Guider	\$ 56.09


The total for Niroomand’s dinner with Dr. Smith and Mr. Guider came to \$56.09. Visitors to usmpride.com will recall that Niroomand’s “academic visit” to Irvine produced a hefty tab (see below).

Total Other Expenses	\$ 291.61
Total for this page	\$ -1,587.26 1534.0
Total for TV pg2	\$ -
Total for Multi Trip Milage	\$ -
Total for BusRelatedExpense	\$ 56.09
TOTAL ALL EXPENSES	\$ 1534.0
LESS ADVANCE	
TOTAL REIMBURSED	\$ -1,587.26 1590.
MAX REIMBURSED	


In fact, the tab was large enough to require four of Niroomand’s money pots (see below).

Expense
856.99
17.46
367.99
347.70

The screen below shows that Niroomand and Dr. Samii got together again in Quebec City in July of 2005.

 THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI BUSINESS RELATED EXPENSE FORM	Name	Farhang Niroomand	SS#	[REDACTED]
	Phone #	266-5028	Dept Box #	5021
	E-Mail	farhang.niroomand@usm.edu		
	Dept Name	CoB Dean's Office		
	<small>This form must be completed when business entertainment expense has been incurred during travel for the University. Attach all original itemized receipts to this form, then attach this form to the TRAVEL VOUCHER.</small>			
Date of Activity	Location of Activity	Business Purpose of Activity	Names of Individuals Involved	Amount
07/09/05	Quebec City, Canada	BIE Director's Meeting	Hosted Dr. Samii, our external reviewer	\$ 122.00

The cost of "hosting" Dr. Samii at the BIE Director's Meeting came to \$122.00. Niroomand met Dr. Samii at the Association for International Business meeting in Quebec City (see below).

 THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYEE TRAVEL VOUCHER	Name	Farhang Niroomand	SS#	[REDACTED]
	Phone #	266-5028	Dept Box #	5021
	E-Mail	farhang.niroomand@usm.edu		
	Dept Name	COB Dean's Office		
	Title of Meeting: 2005 BIE Directors Meeting & Academy of International Business		Permission to Travel Filed (if yes, attach copy) UNIVERSITY CLASSIFICATION Faculty	Yes (or) No
Location and Purpose of trip: Quebec City, Canada attend annual meeting	Accompanied By: Linghui Tang	Submitter: Sheila Marler 266-5853 sheila.marler@usm.edu		

That 2005 AIB meeting was so costly that USM financial affairs officials appear to have had difficulty figuring out Niroomand's instructions for financing it (see below).

TOTAL ALL EXPENSES | \$ 2,957.01 |

1831.69
 268.31 } Reclas

 383.43
 14.58 } Pay
 84.00
 375.00

This report seems to be adding to the data associated with the cost to the CoB of sponsoring Niroomand's activities with the Association for Global Business. As such, a future Special Report will be dedicated to additional costs associated with the AGB that are being discovered by usmpride.com investigators.

Next we turn to meals in Washington, D.C., that look to be associated with Niroomand's "Project Outreach" grant work (see below).



**THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
 BUSINESS RELATED EXPENSE FORM**

Name	Farhang Niroomand	SS#	[REDACTED]
Phone #	266-5028	Dept Box #	5021
E-Mail	farhang.niroomand@usm.edu		
Dept Name	CoB Dean's Office		

This form must be completed when business entertainment expense has been incurred during travel for the University. Attach all original itemized receipts to this form, then attach this form to the TRAVEL VOUCHER.

Date of Activity	Location of Activity	Business Purpose of Activity	Names of Individuals Involved	Amount
07/19/03	Washington, DC	workshop	Dinner with my colleague, Dr. Shah, who provided lodging	\$ 70.73
07/20/05	Washington, DC	workshop	Dinner with my colleague, Dr. Shah, who provided lodging	\$ 69.83
07/21/05	Washington, DC	workshop	Lunch with Dr. Hewitt	\$ 36.95
07/22/05	Washington, DC	workshop	Dinner with my colleague, Dr. Shah, who provided lodging	\$ 61.43

The dinners above involved Dr. Shah and Dr. Hewitt, Niroomand's "colleagues." These meals, all occurring in July of 2005, total more than \$200.

A future report in the Special Report series will examine other university-funded meals that Niroomand has hosted. Some appear to show Niroomand meddling in job search processes.